Priya Parrotta, PhD

Education

PhD, University of Aberdeen (Aberdeen, UK) – History (2022-2025)

Thesis Title: *The Paradise Industry: The Making of Waikīkī Beach, 1890-1930*

Supervisors: Professor Karin Friedrich and Dr Richard Anderson

Examiners: Dr Andrew Dilley and Dr Henry Knight Lozano

A.B., Brown University – History (Bachelor's degree with a focus on Colonialism and Globalization) and Music (Applied Music Program in Vocal Performance) (2008-2013, with a gap year in 2009-2010)

Postgraduate studies in Global Environmental Politics at American University (Washington, DC) and Human Geography at the University of Oxford's School of Geography and the Environment (Oxford, UK) (2014)

Valedictorian, AP Scholar with Distinction, Presidential Scholar Finalist, and 99th percentile SAT (1580 out of 1600) at the Baldwin School of Puerto Rico (2008)

Professional Experience

Currently

Founder and Director, Music & the Earth International (2016-present): Music & the Earth International is an interdisciplinary environmental humanities initiative which fosters multicultural environmental awareness by integrating diverse styles of world music into environmental education, particularly at a university level. The initiative's interwoven areas of focus are ecological well-being on tropical coastlines, and the forging of a global environmental consciousness, rooted in peace and dialogue across borders. As Founder and Director, Priya has undertaken a diversity of academic and artistic projects which affirm largely unexplored intersections between environmentalism and the arts. These projects include (but are not limited to) scholarly and popular articles; secondary school curriculum development; podcast production; interdisciplinary environmental history and arts modules; and seven albums of original environmental music.

Previously

Senior Fellow in Environmental History and Music, The Safina Center (2024-2026)

Founding Leader, The Sanctuaries—Washington, DC (2015-2017)

Communications Expert, U.S. Forest Service, Office of International Programs (2014)

Research Assistant, Disaster Services, American Red Cross (2013)

Administrative Assistant, Green America (2014)

Intern, Smithsonian Institution, Asian Pacific American Program (2010)

Intern, Organization of American States, Department of Cultural Affairs (2010)

Honors

Safina Center Senior Fellowship (2024-26): The Safina Center Senior Fellowship which propels world-recognized creators and connectors whose work addresses conservation, the environment, and/or social justice in unique ways. The Senior Fellowship is awarded, by nomination only, to 1-2 people per year.

United States Artist Fellowship Nominee in Music (2022): The United States Artists Fellowship is a prestigious arts award which supports artists across diverse disciplines for their unique social and/or environmental contributions to public life in the US. In 2022, fifty-nine people were nominated for the Fellowship in Music, and ten were chosen.

Publications

Book

Parrotta, Priya, *The Politics of Coexistence in the Atlantic World: The Greater Caribbean* (Newcastle-Upon-Tyne: Cambridge Scholars Publishing, 2016)

Scholarly Articles and Chapters

Parrotta, Priya, 'From Archives to Soundscapes: Integrating Historiography, Music and Environmental Consciousness in Courses on Tropical Islands,' in *Watery Epistemologies, Emerging Decolonial and Southern Epistemological Perspectives* (Multilingual Matters, forthcoming).

Parrotta, Priya and Platón Lázaro, Lydia 'Bomba as Resistance to Femicide in Puerto Rico,' in *Confronting Femicide*, edited by Nalini Natarajan (London: Palgrave Macmillan, 2025)

Parrotta, Priya, 'When the Island Sings: 'Paradise,' Hospitality, and the Transformative Power of Environmental Music,' in *Hospitable Linguistics: Alternative, Indigenous, and Critical Approaches to Language Research and Language Encounters,* edited by Nick Faraclas et al. (Bristol, UK: Multilingual Matters, 2025)

Parrotta, Priya, 'To Dream Again: Thoughts on Island Soundscapes and Environmentalism,' in *Globalization and Planetary Ethics: New Terrains of Consciousness*, edited by Simi Malhotra, Shraddha Singh, and Zahra Rizvi (London: Routledge, 2023)

Parrotta, Priya, 'When Oceans Meet: Musical Diversity, Environmentalism and Dialogue in a Changing World,' in Musiké, 7.1 (2019), *Conciencias Sonoras: Reflexiones Pos-María desde la música y el arte al Cambio Climático,* pp. 17-27

Parrotta, Priya, 'Soundwaves: Political and Musical Exchange Between Students and Activists in the Caribbean and Pacific Islands, in *Musiké*, 7.1 (2019), *Conciencias Sonoras: Reflexiones Pos-María desde la música y el arte al Cambio Climático,* pp. 54-63

Parrotta, Priya, 'From Forests to Music: Perspectives on the Public Sphere,' in *Acta Científica,* 31.1 (2018)

Parrotta, Priya. 'Fugas y Fronteras: The Politics of Inclusion in San Mateo de Cangrejos, A Fugitive Settlement of Afro-Caribbean Slaves in Puerto Rico' in Nicholas Faraclas et al, eds. *Transcultural Roots Uprising: The Rhizomatic Languages, Literatures, and Cultures of the Caribbean* (2013)

Parrotta, Priya, Review of Nelson Maldonado Torres, *Against War: Views from the Underside of Modernity* in *Sargasso: A Journal of Caribbean Literature, Language, and Culture* (2013)

Parrotta, Priya, 'Promised Land: Quilombismo, the 'Quilombo Clause,' and the Politics of Recognition in Contemporary Brazil' in Nicholas Faraclas, ed. *Anansi's Defiant Webs* (2011). Reprinted in the *Brown Journal of History* (2012)

Popular Articles

Parrotta, Priya, 'From Classical to Cosmopolitan: A Musical Journey,' Safina Center, 2026.

Parrotta, Priya, 'Compassion and Community: Field Notes from the Vegan Movement,' Safina Center, 2026.

Parrotta, Priya, 'On Technology, Ego and the Environment,' Safina Center, 2025.

Parrotta, Priya, 'Consciousness and Connection: Reflections from a Plant-Based Kitchen,' Safina Center, 2025.

Parrotta, Priya, 'Vegan Multiculturalism: The World Vegan Project,' *Literary Veganism*, 2025.

Parrotta, Priya, 'Rewilded Dreams: Remapping a Tourist Zone in *Paseo*,' Safina Center, 2025

Parrotta, Priya, 'Global Harmony: A Musical Inquiry,' Safina Center, 2025

Parrotta, Priya, 'Island Environmentalism and the Arts: A Postgrad Course in San Juan, Puerto Rico,' Safina Center, 2025

Parrotta, Priya, 'Atlas: Transcending Man-made Borders, Safina Center, 2024

Parrotta, Priya, 'Of Hotels and History: Luxury Beach Tourism in the New Gilded Age,' Safina Center, 2024

Parrotta, Priya, 'Coexistence Celebrated: Scholarship, Sound and the Power of Immersive Spaces,' Safina Center, 2024

Parrotta, Priya, 'Anima: When Ecosystems Meet Dreams,' Safina Center, 2024

Parrotta, Priya, 'Listening to Huracán María,' In *Faith Initiative*, a print publication dedicated to global, interfaith understanding and peace, 2018

Parrotta, Priya, 'Men Who Doubt Infinity,' In *Q.E.D.*, an Oxford-based publication which reimagines the learning and teaching of mathematics, 2017

Parrotta, Priya, ''Listening in a Time of Climate Change,' In *New Music Box*, a publication of New Media USA, 2017

Parrotta, Priya, 'Ecological Wisdom, Living Soundscapes,' In *New Music Box*, a publication of New Media USA, 2017

Parrotta, Priya, 'Composing Interdependence: Songs Along the Nile,' In *New Music Box*, a publication of New Media USA, 2017

Parrotta, Priya, 'Music and Social/Cultural Resilience,' In *New Music Box*, a publication of New Media USA, 2017

Parrotta, Priya, 'Music Across Pipelines: Songs from Standing Rock,' In *Media Diversified*, a platform for critically-informed perspectives on contemporary media, 2017

Parrotta, Priya, 'Om,' In *Faith Initiative*, a print publication dedicated to global, interfaith understanding and peace, 2017

Parrotta, Priya, 'Supporting Diversity in Times of Hate,' In *Art & Soul*, the online publication of The Sanctuaries, a multi faith arts community in Washington, DC, 2017

Parrotta, Priya, 'The Humor of Multiculturalism,' In *Art & Soul*, the online publication of The Sanctuaries, a multi faith arts community in Washington, DC, 2016

Parrotta, Priya, 'Decolonizing Music: A Musical Congress of the Americas,' In *Repeating Islands*, a website for news and commentary of Caribbean culture, literature and the arts, 2016

Parrotta, Priya, 'A Hindu Puerto Rican's Reflection on the Emerging Leaders Multifaith Climate Convergence in Rome,' In *Repeating Islands*, a website for news and commentary of Caribbean culture, literature and the arts, 2015

Parrotta, Priya, 'Cosmopolitanism as creative resistance in San Juan, Puerto Rico,' in *Voices Across Borders*, a website based at the Oxford Centre for Research in the Humanities, 2015

Parrotta, Priya, 'Cultural heritage in Washington, DC,' In *Voices Across Borders*, a website based at the Oxford Centre for Research in the Humanities, 2015

Albums

Parrotta, Priya, *Dovetail* (Washington, DC: Music & the Earth International, 2025)

Parrotta, Priya, *Vegana, Vol. 1* (Washington, DC: Music & the Earth International, 2025)

Parrotta, Priya, *Attesa* (Washington, DC: Music & the Earth International, 2025)

Parrotta, Priya, *Atlas* (Washington, DC: Music & the Earth International, 2024)

Parrotta, Priya, *Paseo* (Washington, DC: Music & the Earth International, 2024)

Parrotta, Priya, *Openhearted* (Washington, DC: Music & the Earth International, 2023)

Parrotta, Priya, *Anima* (Washington, DC: Music & the Earth International, 2020)

Parrotta, Priya, *Wayfinder* (Washington, DC: Music & the Earth International, 2021)

Selected Talks

'Re-Enchanting Tropical Coastlines through Music.' Invited lecture in 'Caribbean Arts as Decolonial Practice' at Georgetown University (2026)

'From Archives to Soundscapes: Coastal Wellbeing through Historical Research and Original Music.' Invited lecture for environmental studies graduate students at NYU (2026)

'Environmentalism and World Music.' Talk for the Oxford University Society of DC (2026)

'From Frontlines to Foodways: Tropical Island Environmentalism and the Plant-Based Movement.' Invited Lecture at Pro-Animal Futures DC (2026)

'Music & the Earth: Songs for World Peace' —featured talk and show at DC Climate Week, in collaboration with the Brown Club of DC (2026)

'VIVA: Una celebración de la diversidad biocultural.' Invited talk at the University of Puerto Rico for faculty and students in the UPR's Maestría en Gestión y Administración Cultural (2026)

'From Archives to Soundscapes: Integrating Historiography, Music and Environmental Consciousness in Courses on Tropical Islands' – Invited lecturer at Penn State's African Studies Global Virtual Forum: Decoloniality and Southern Epistemologies (2025)

'Priya Parrotta: Safina Center Senior Fellow' – Invited guest on *Digging in the Dirt,* a podcast and radio show featuring climate change experts and activists (2025)

'VIVA: An Immersive Experience' – Invited composer at the International Symposium on Wood Science and Technology in Sendai, Japan (2025)

'VIVA: An Immersive Experience' – Invited composer at the International Union of Forest Research Organizations (IUFRO) World Congress in Stockholm, Sweden (2024)

'Elevating Environmental Consciousness and Healing through Music - with Priya Parrotta' – Invited guest on *Fit as a Fiddle,* a podcast featuring experts on health and wellness (2022)

'Music and Climate Education' – Invited speaker at the International Society for Music Education Annual Conference (2022)

'Voice and Climate Consciousness' – Invited speaker at Puentes Caribeños: Caribbean Creativity and Composition in Changing Times (2022)

'Climate Soul: Climate Change, Song and the Geopolitics of Deep Feeling' – Invited speaker at the Reponses in Music to Climate Change Composers' Forum, organize by the Center for Music Research and Documentation at The Graduate Center, City University of New York (2021)

'Music and Multicultural Education' – Interview with the New York State Outdoor Education Association (2021)

'Climate Soul: Music for Environmental Awareness, Healing and Peace' – Invited speaker at the Virtual Centre for Theosophical Studies (2021)

'Music, Gender and Forest Policy' – Invited speaker at the International Union of Forest Research Organizations (IUFRO) World Day (2021)

'The Politics of Coexistence in the Atlantic World' – Invited book talk at the University of Puerto Rico (2019)

'Soundwaves: Political and Musical Exchange between Students and Activists in the Caribbean and Pacific Islands' – Invited presenter at the Conservatory of Music of Puerto Rico (2019)

'Como la ley se encuentra con la cultura: lecciones ambiental(istas) de la política de reparación en Brasil.' Invitada al Primer Congreso Antropológico, La Presencia Africana en América, en la Universidad Autónoma del Estado de México (2019)

''Where the Light Enters You:' Nature, Culture and the Ghazal in the Greater Caribbean,' at Puentes Caribeños, a conference at the Conservatorio de Música de Puerto Rico (2019)

'From Forests to Music: Perspectives on the Public Sphere' – Invited presentation at *The Stoichiometry of Research, Education and Conservation* at the University of Puerto Rico (2018)

Selected Conferences

'Plant Sentience in Original Songs, 'This I Know' and 'Esmeraldas,'' at the 2nd International Conference on Global Plant Humanities (2025)

'When Oceans Meet: Musical Diversity, Environmentalism and Dialogue in a Changing World,' at the International Ecocriticism and Environmental Studies Conference at the London Centre for Interdisciplinary Research (2024)

'The Paradise Industry: Law, Ecology, Media and the Making of Waikīkī Beach, 1890-1930,' at the International Conference on Postcolonial Studies at the London Centre for Interdisciplinary Research (2024)

'To Dream Again: Imagining Island Solidarity Through Music'- presented at the annual conferences of the Small Island Studies Association (ISISA), Latin American Studies Association (LASA), and International Association for the Study of Popular Music (IASPM) (2021)

'To Dream Again: Island Soundscapes & Environmentalism' – Presented at Globalization and New Terrains of Consciousness: Phenomenologies of the Global/Local/Glocal, a conference hosted by Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi, India (2021)

'Cross-Cultural Environmental Solidarity through World Music' – Presented at the 44th Annual CSA conference in Santa Marta, Colombia (2019)

'Enviromental(ist) Lessons from Brazil's Politics of Reparation' – Presented at the 44th Annual CSA conference in Santa Marta, Colombia (2019)

Teaching Experience

Courses

'Decolonial Environmentalism and the Arts'– a six-week interdisciplinary environmental history course, to be offered every semester to students in the University of Puerto Rico's Caribbean Studies doctoral program (starting in spring 2027)

'Island Environmentalism and the Arts' – a six-week environmental humanities course offered to students in the UPR's Caribbean Studies doctoral programme (2025)

'Island Sessions' – a semester-long interdisciplinary environmental studies course on island solidarity through music, offered for two years to students in the UPR's Caribbean Studies doctoral programme (2018-19)

Guest Lectures

'Re-Enchanting Tropical Coastlines through Music.' Invited lecture in 'Caribbean Arts as Decolonial Practice' at Georgetown University (2026)

'From Archives to Soundscapes: Coastal Wellbeing through Historical Research and Original Music.' Invited lecture for environmental studies graduate students at NYU (2026)

'Beyond the Tangled Webs: Reimagining the Public Sphere' – Invited lecture and seminar at the University of Puerto Rico (2025)

'Music & Writing for Social Change' – Invited lecture at 'Arts & Advocacy,' a Women and Gender Studies course at the University of Lethbridge in Alberta, Canada (2022)

'The Art and Practice of Environmental Songwriting' – Invited lecture in a doctoral course on environmental communication, offered by the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (2022)

'Música, el medio ambiente y las músicas afro-brasileñas' – Guest lecturer at a seminar named 'Estudio e investigación de la música latinoamericana' at the Conservatorio de Música de Puerto Rico (2018)

'Music, Decoloniality and Global Climate Politics' – Guest lecturer at a graduate seminar in linguistics at the University of Puerto Rico (2017)

'Música, tierra y coexistencia' – Guest lecturer at a graduate seminar in ethnomusicology at the Conservatorio de Música de Puerto Rico (2017)

Additional Activities

Co-organizer of *Conciencias Sonoras*, an interdisciplinary conference at the Conservatorio de Música de Puerto Rico, on the role of music in the recovering from natural disasters on tropical islands (2018)

Co-producer of *Itinerarios Sonoros*, a podcast and educational initiative on the politics of music and sound in the Caribbean (2018)

Languages and Skills

Languages: Spanish (C2), Italian (C1), French (B2), Hindi (A2) and Portuguese (A2)

Experienced facilitator of multicultural and multifaith dialogue, particularly in artistic and activist contexts

Certificates: Online Education (Duke University, 2023); 200-Hour Yoga Instructor Certification (YogaRenew, in progress); Zumba Fitness Instructor Certification (2021); Music Therapy (Centre of Excellence, 2023); Yin Yoga Certification (YogaRenew, 2025); and Mindfulness Certification (YogaRenew, 2025)